

"Father of a Dying Son" John 4:43-54

Jesus is the healer.

"You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it? Only a real risk tests the reality of belief." C. S. Lewis

How does your faith grow during desperate times?

1. Crisis

Principle: God often uses trouble to focus our attention on Him.

"It is well when trouble leads a man to God, instead of away from God. Affliction is one of God's medicines." A.W. Pink

How does God use problems in our lives?

- He uses problems to direct us.

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." Proverbs 20:30

- He uses problems to inspect us.

"The Lord God led you all the way in the desert these forty years to test you, in order to know what was in your heart." Deuteronomy 8:2

- He uses problems to correct us.

"It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your statutes." Psalms 119:71

"The punishment that you gave me was the best thing that could have happened to me for it taught me to pay attention to your laws." Psalms 119:71 (Living Bible)

- He uses problems to protect us.

"It is better if it is God's will to suffer for doing good than to do evil." 1 Peter 3:17

"You meant it to harm me, but God meant it for good." Genesis 50:20

- He uses problems to perfect us.

"All things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

2. Humility

3. Request

4. Persistence

Principle: Miracles have no use except to point to Jesus.

"If God loved you enough to give Jesus, His Son, to die for you, He loves you enough to care for your other needs." Romans 8:32

"If you being an imperfect father know how to give good gifts, certainly your heavenly Father who's perfect knows how to give gifts to you." Matthew 7:11

"Don't be weary in prayer. Keep at it. Watch for God's answers." Colossians 4:2

Principle: He's God and we are not!

Definition of faith: Faith is confidence in God's faithfulness to me in an uncertain world, on an uncharted course, through an unknown future.

5. Obedience

"Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe." St. Augustine

6. Confirmation

7. Commitment

"Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace." Oswald Chambers